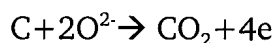


### REMARKS

The present claims require a direct electrochemical oxidation of carbon at an anode of a fuel cell. This simply does not occur in the cited art, whether taken alone or combination. Most particularly, it does not occur in the cited Gur reference. In accordance with claim 1, carbon reacts directly with the oxygen ions transmitted to the anode, the reaction being represented as follows:



This simply does not occur in Gur or any of the cited references. Indeed, in Gur, carbon does not come in to contact with oxygen ions at the anode. Instead, as clearly set forth in Gur at column 2, lines 56-61 and column 4, lines 25-28 and column 6, lines 18-44, the Gur fuel cell thermally oxidizes carbon, and nowhere does Gur provide an electrochemical oxidation at the anode satisfying the aforementioned equation. Notably, the Examiner cites to equation IV of Gur as corresponding to the direct electrochemical oxidation reaction recited in claim 1, but that is simply not the case. Equation IV is substantially different from the equation of claim 1, and Gur fails to teach or suggest the direct electrochemical oxidation for which the Examiner cites it.

Notably, in accordance with Applicants specification and claim 1, direct electrochemical oxidation occurs at the anode according to the aforementioned equation, wherein carbon reacts with oxygen ions to create carbon dioxide and four electrons. This requires that the carbon be in direct contact with the anode so as to react with the oxygen ions transmitted thereto by the solid-oxide electrolyte. In distinction, in Gur, the carbon fuel 12 is held at a distance from the anode and does not come into contact therewith. More particularly, the carbon fuel 12 is held in a second temperature zone 16, which is distanced from the first temperature zone 14 in which resides the anode 36. The Gur system simply does not teach claim 1, particularly the required reaction therein.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

It is believed that no fee is due with the filing of this Response. Nonetheless, in the event that a fee required for the filing of this document is missing or insufficient, the

undersigned attorney hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0987.

In the event that an Extension of Time fee is due and missing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to enter such an extension and charge Deposit Account No. 18-0987.

Respectfully submitted,

/marklweber/

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